

# Mineral of the Month Club



**September 2015**

## Featured Mineral Barite

Our Mineral of the Month is barite from Iowa's Linwood Mine. The Linwood Mine is notable on two counts as Iowa's premier source of mineral specimens and as one of world's few underground limestone mines. The site has been quarried for more than a century. The current owner and operator, the Linwood Mining and Minerals Corporation, acquired the quarry in 1944 and later moved the operation underground. The mine has an unusual configuration: Its single level is 200 feet deep, covers hundreds of acres, and extends one mile from the portals. An area of about 30 acres is mined each year to yield more than 1.5 million tons of limestone. The Linwood Mine is not open to public mineral collecting because of safety and liability issues. When vugs containing collectible specimens of barite and calcite are encountered during production, miners collect these crystals and sell them to mineral dealers. Our specimens were collected in 2012 when miners encountered a number of unusually large, crystal-filled voids.

Barite crystals from the Linwood Mine have long been popular with collectors. Their pale, smoky-to-grayish-brown colors are due to traces of both iron and calcareous mineral particles. The crystals, which are sharp-edged, orthorhombic prisms with well-developed terminations, are mostly transparent and have smooth faces and a vitreous-to-pearly luster. Some prism and termination edges are beveled, which is typical of barite.

Our Platinum Level specimens of barite from the Linwood Mine consist of well-developed, transparent, smoky-brown barite crystals on a matrix of altered limestone. All have nicely developed barite prisms or tabs, but vary in four main areas: size of the overall specimen; size of the individual barite crystals; coloration; and degree of transparency.

We hope that you love these specimens as much as we do.

Please email or call Christine to place your orders at [christine@celestialearthminerals.com](mailto:christine@celestialearthminerals.com) phone #800-941-5594.

Many Blessings,

Dimitri, Mary, Christine, and Lora

# Featured Mineral

## Barite

### Group 1



**Specimen Sizes:** 1.5" x 2" to 2.5" x 4"

**Price Range:** \$25.00- \$50.00

This group consists of have smooth faces with a vitreous-to-pearly luster  
Vitreous having reflective properties similar to glass and many have  
beveled edges.

# Featured Mineral

## Barite

### Group 2



**Specimen sizes:** 1.5" x 2.5" to 3" x 3" **Price range:** \$45.00 to \$95.00

This group consists of clusters of smaller set in a limestone matrix with well defined crystals. Light seems to dance off them as it reflects off the vitreous luster.

# Featured Mineral

## Barite

### Group 3



**Specimen sizes:** 1.5" x 4" to 3.25" x 5" **Price range:** \$100.00 to \$225.00

This group consists of larger well developed crystals, some with a bit of the limestone matrix. All have a nice transparency with vitreous luster. As you can see in this photo some of the crystals are reflecting rainbows.

# Further Information

**Coming in October**



October's featured mineral will be tincalconite , a rare, pseudomorphic borate mineral from the evaporite-mineral deposit at Searles lake in California.

**We love to hear from our members, so please call or email anytime!**

**Discounts available:** If you order 4 or more minerals from the Featured Mineral letter and/or the Offering sheet you will receive a 10% discount on your mineral purchase.

**Ordering:** To place an order you can call #800-941-5594 or email [christlne@celestialearthminerals.com](mailto:christlne@celestialearthminerals.com)

**Shipping:** As always, shipping is free in the United States.

**Specimen size:** All our specimens are approximate in size.

**Method of payment:** We accept, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, PayPal and checks.

***Please make checks payable to Celestial Earth Stones.***

